Development of Tourism in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh

†3353. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of potentialities for tourism in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Central Government propose to exploit tourism potentialities in these areas;

(c) if so, whether any action plan has been chalked out in this regard in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) what is the number of proposals received from Govt. of Madhya Pradesh in this regard; and

(e) what are the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Central Government for development of tourism in Madhya Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) Development of tourist infrastructural facilities for exploiting tourism potential is primarily undertaken by the State Govts./ Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with State Govts. concerned every year. During the last 3 years of Ninth plan Rs. 989.05 lakhs has been sanctioned for 42 tourism projects in Madhya Pradesh.

Development of Simhachalam Hills (A.P.) as tourist spot

3354. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Simhachalam Hills in Visakhapatnam is being developed as a tourist spot;

(b) if so, the details of plan made in this regard; and

(c) by when it would be added in tourist map for attracting foreign as well as national tourists?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Development of tourist infrastructural facilities is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with State Govts. concerned every year. No proposal for development of Simhachalam Hills was prioritised during 1999-2000.

Development of historical places in Bihar

†3355. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that so many historical places in Bihar are quite important from the tourism point of view;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any specific plan for the development of such places of Bihar from the tourism point of view;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for tourism projects/ schemes prioritised in consultation with State Governments every year. Financial assistance of Rs. 79.91 lakhs was sanctioned for four tourism projects in Bihar during 1999-2000.

Disputes over construction of Hydro projects

†3356. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work of various hydro projects in country is hanging in balance due to the mutual disputes among various States;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.